

## **REMARKS**

The drawings are objected to for not labeling Figs. 4, 5(a) and 5(b) as prior art. The drawings are hereby corrected accordingly. The drawings were also rejected for not showing a second crack initiator on the second cutter blade as claimed in claim 4. A new Fig. 2(a) is provided to show this feature. Also, the specification is hereby amended to include a reference to new Fig. 2(a) and to include a discussion of new Fig. 2(a) in the Detailed Description of the Invention. Support for this amendment is found in original claim 4, no new matter having been added.

Claim 19 is objected to because of improper Markush format. Claim 19 is hereby amended to correct the format. Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 19 which were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph are hereby amended to correct the 112 problems.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Buttress (US 2,712,169). Claims 14-17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buttress in view of Novak et al (US 4,092,173).

Claim 1 is hereby amended to include the feature that the first and second cutters are offset and to clarify that the first crack is propagated beyond the tip of the first crack initiator by the first cutter base, whereby the tip of the first crack initiator is disengaged from the laminated web. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at page 7, lines 31-32 and page 9, lines 20-25. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended is requested for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a cutter that operated by generating a shearing action between two cutters that propagates a crack through a laminated web that is being sheared. The cutters are offset from each other so that the edges of the cutters can pass each other as the cut is completed. The invention utilizes a cutter having a high rake angle crack initiator extending from a low rake angle cutter base. After the crack initiator starts a crack, the cutter base engages the laminated web, causing the crack to propagate beyond the tip of the crack initiator, thereby relieving stress on the crack initiator to increase the life of the cutter and providing a smoother cut that is less likely to cause delamination of the web.

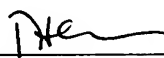
Buttress shows a machine for severing a ribbon of wet uncured plaster board. The dies shown by buttress include a sharp leading edge that functions as a knife and a hollow ground portion that functions as a molding die to round the edge of the cut sheet. The dies do not act by shearing to propagate a crack as in applicants invention, rather, the sharp leading edges of the dies shown by Buttress meet edge to edge (i.e. they are not offset) to "chop" the wet plaster board.

The portion of the dies characterized by the Examiner as a high rake angle crack initiator and a low rake angle base are actually the curved surface the dies that form the severed edges of the uncured plaster board to a rounded profile. Because the dies are symmetrical about their cutting edges, there is a "base" on both side of the sharp edge "crack initiator" of the die. With such a configuration, the "base" wouldn't function to propagate a crack initiated by the sharp leading edge of the die by taking over the cutting force from the leading edge as in the offset blades of the present invention. Rather this configuration would act more like the wedge discussed by applicants in the discussion of the prior art. Furthermore, the symmetrical configuration shown by Buttress is not useful in a shearing action cutter where the cutters are offset from each other as disclosed and claimed by applicants

It is believed therefore that applicants' claim 1 as amended is patentable over the disclosure of Buttress. The remainder of the claims depend from claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

It is believed that the claims in the application are allowable over the prior art and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

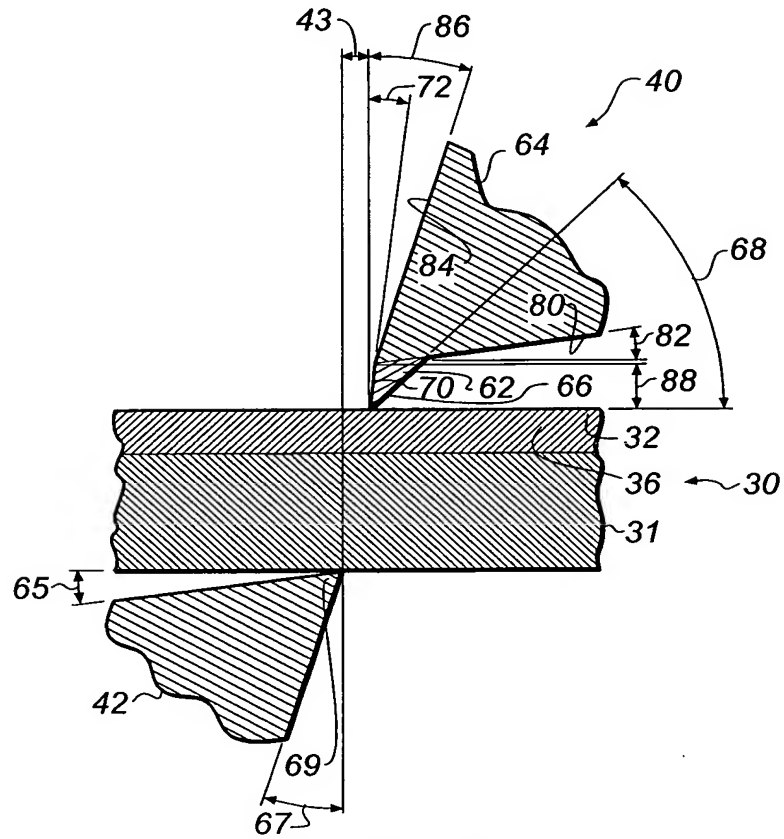
  
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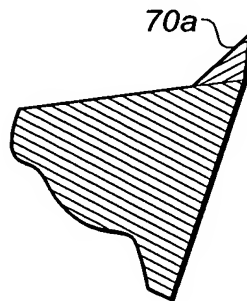
Enclosures: Replacement Figures. 2 including Fig. 2a;  
Replacement Figs. 4, 5(a) and 5(b).  
Copy of Letter to the Draftsperson (with drawings)



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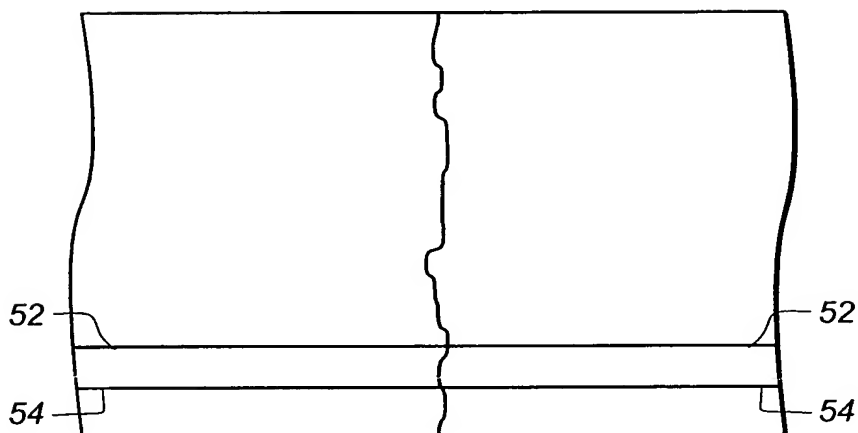
**FIG. 2**



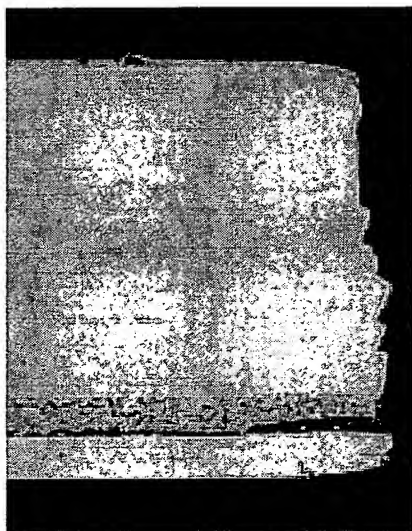
**FIG. 2a**



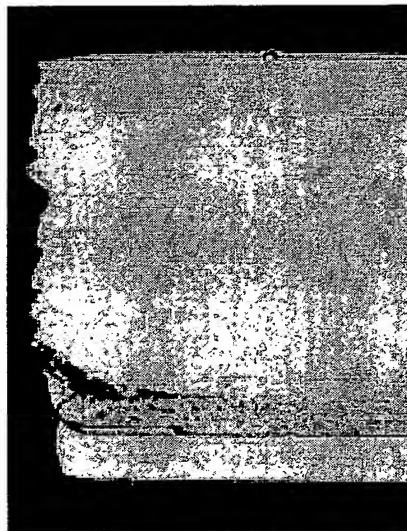
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**FIG. 4**  
(PRIOR ART)



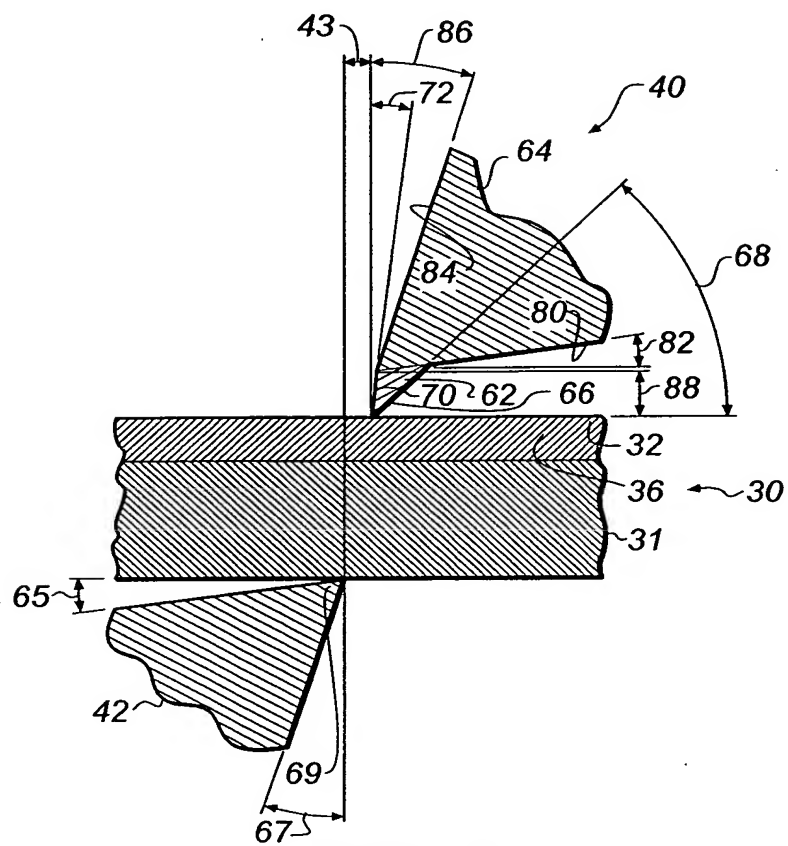
**FIG. 5(a)**  
(PRIOR ART)



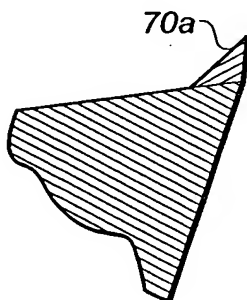
**FIG. 5(b)**  
(PRIOR ART)



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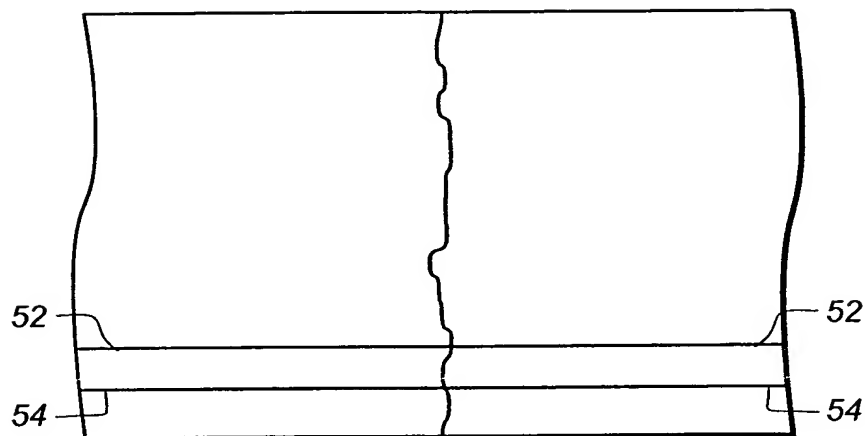
**FIG. 2**



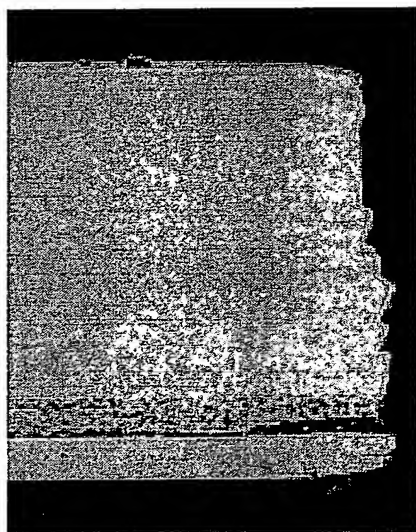
**FIG. 2a**



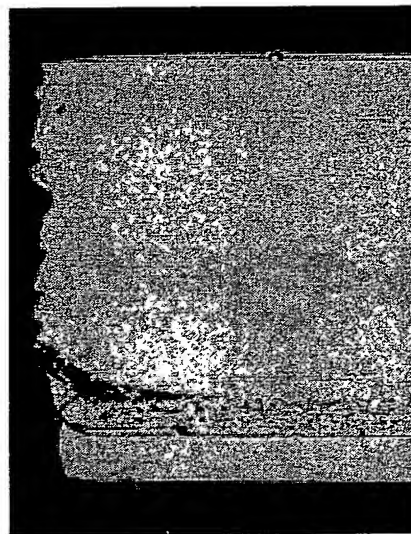
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**FIG. 4**  
(PRIOR ART)



**FIG. 5(a)**  
(PRIOR ART)



**FIG. 5(b)**  
(PRIOR ART)